REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Final Office Action mailed December 22, 2005 ("Office Action"). At the time of the Office Action, Claims 1-37 were pending in the application. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejects Claims 1-37. To advance prosecution of this case, Applicant amends Claims 1, 11, 14, 16-18, 22-23, 26, 28-30, and 34-35. Applicant does not admit that any amendments are necessary due to any prior art or any of the Examiner's rejections. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims.

Final Rejection is Premature

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the finality of the Office Action because the final rejection of the pending claims is premature. In particular, the December 22, 2005 Office Action introduces a new ground of rejection for Claim 12 that is not necessitated by any amendment of Claim 12. *See* MPEP § 706.07(a). In the Office Action dated July 5, 2005, Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. US 2002/0070915 to Mazza, et al. ("*Mazza*"). In Applicant's Response to the July 5, 2005 Office Action, Applicant converted Claim 12 from dependent to independent format. The elements of Claim 12 were not changed by the amendment. Therefore, this amendment did not necessitate a new ground of rejection. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the finality of the Office Action.

Drawings

The Examiner objects to the drawings pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a). In particular, the Examiner states that "the element of Claim 14" must be shown in the flow chart. Notably, the Office Action fails to specifically identify the element of Claim 14 that is allegedly missing from the drawings. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner identify which element of Claim 14 is missing from the drawings. Otherwise, Applicant requests that the Examiner withdraw the objection to the drawings. Applicant respectfully submits that the elements of amended Claim 14 are sufficiently illustrated by at least FIGURE 4.

Section 103 Rejections

Claims 1-5, 10, 11-14, 16-17, 22, 23-26, 28-29, 34, and 35-37

The Examiner rejects Claims 1-5, 10, 11-14, 16-17, 22, 23-26, 28-29, 34, and 35-37 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. US 2002/0070915 to Mazza, et al. ("*Mazza*"), in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,071,194 to Sanderson, et al. ("*Sanderson*").

The *Mazza-Sanderson* combination fails to support the rejection for several reasons. First, the cited references fail to teach, suggest, or disclose an interface application wherein "at least some of the controller signal relationships are associated with different game controllers" as recited, in part, in amended Claim 1. Second, the cited references fail to teach, suggest, or disclose an interface application that is operable to "identify a particular game controller" as recited, in part, in amended Claim 1. Third, the cited references fail to teach, suggest, or disclose an interface application that is operable to "determine at least one particular controller signal relationship based at least in part on the identified game controller" as recited, in part, in amended Claim 1.

First, the cited references fail to teach, suggest, or disclose an interface application wherein "at least some of the controller signal relationships are associated with different game controllers" as recited, in part, in amended Claim 1. *Sanderson* describes a video game controller that may be configured to control different video games. (*Sanderson*; col. 4, ll. 55-67; col. 5, ll. 1-4). In particular, *Sanderson* teaches a method whereby a user may configure a single game controller with multiple sets of keycodes corresponding to different video games. (*Sanderson*; col. 4, ll. 49-65). There is nothing, however, in *Sanderson* that teaches, suggests, or discloses a plurality of controller signal relationships wherein "at least some of the controller signal relationships are associated with *different game controllers*" as recited, in part, in amended Claim 1. (Emphasis added). The multiple keycodes in *Sanderson* are associated with different video games -- not "different game controllers" as recited, in part, in amended Claim 1. Accordingly, there is nothing in *Sanderson* that teaches, suggests, or discloses an interface application wherein "at least some of the controller signal relationships are associated with different game controllers" as recited, in part, in amended Claim 1. *Mazza* likewise fails to teach, suggest, or disclose this aspect of amended Claim 1.

Second, the cited references fail to teach, suggest, or disclose an interface application that is operable to "identify a particular game controller" as recited, in part, in amended Claim 1. *Mazza* discloses an electronic trading system that receives and processes commands from a hand-held controller. (*Mazza*; p. 2, ¶30; p. 3, ¶¶ 31-33). Similarly, *Sanderson* discloses a hand-held controller for communicating commands to an electronic trading system. (*Sanderson*; col. 3, ll. 5-26). Notably, neither *Mazza* nor *Sanderson* teach, suggest, or disclose an interface application that is operable to "identify a particular game controller" as recited, in part, in amended Claim 1. Therefore, the cited references fail to teach, suggest, or disclose this aspect of amended Claim 1.

Third, the cited references fail to teach, suggest, or disclose an interface application that is operable to "determine at least one particular controller signal relationship based at least in part on the identified game controller" as recited, in part, in amended Claim 1. As explained above, *Sanderson* teaches a method whereby a user may configure a game controller with multiple sets of keycodes. (*Sanderson*; col. 4, ll. 55-67; col. 5, ll. 1-4). *Sanderson*, however, fails to teach, suggest, or disclose anything that is operable to "determine at least one particular controller signal relationship *based at least in part on the identified game controller*" as recited, in part, in amended Claim 1. (Emphasis added). *Mazza* likewise fails to teach, suggest, or disclose this aspect of amended Claim 1. For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of amended Claim 1.

In rejecting Claims 14 and 26, the Examiner employs the same rationale used with respect to Claim 1. Accordingly, for analogous reasons to those stated with respect to amended Claim 1, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of amended Claims 14 and 26.

Claims 2-5, 10-11, 13, 16-17, 22, 23-25, 28-29, 34, and 35-37 depend from independent claims shown above to be allowable. In addition, these claims recite further elements not taught, suggested, or disclosed by the cited references. For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of Claims 2-5, 10-11, 13, 16-17, 22, 23-25, 28-29, 34, and 35-37.

Claims 6-9, 15, 18-21, 27, 30-33

The Examiner rejects Claims 6-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Mazza* in view of *Sanderson* as applied to Claim 1, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,896,125 to Niedzwiecki ("*Niedzwiecki*"). The Examiner rejects Claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Mazza* in view of *Sanderson* and *Niedzwiecki* as applied to Claim 6, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,243,331 to McCausland, et al. ("*McCausland*"). The Examiner rejects Claims 15 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Mazza* in view of *Sanderson* as applied to Claims 14 and 26, and further in view of *McCausland*. The Examiner rejects Claims 18-20 and 30-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Mazza* in view of *Sanderson* as applied to Claims 14 and 26, and further in view of *Niedzwiecki*. The Examiner rejects Claims 21 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Mazza* in view of *Sanderson* and *Niedzwiecki* as applied to Claim 18, and further in view of *McCausland*.

Claims 6-9, 15, 18-21, 27, 30-33 depend from independent claims shown above to be allowable. In addition, these claims recite further elements not taught, suggested, or disclosed by the cited references. For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of Claims 6-9, 15, 18-21, 27, 30-33.

CONCLUSION

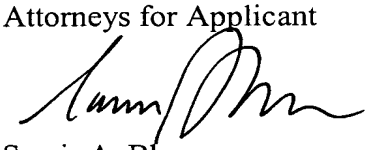
For the foregoing reasons, and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicant respectfully requests full allowance of all pending claims.

If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, the Examiner is invited to contact Samir A. Bhavsar, Attorney for Applicant, at the Examiner's convenience at (214) 953-6581.

Although no fees are believed due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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